

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 23 and 32 will have been amended in response to a suggestion by the Examiner during a telephone interview conducted in the present application.

In the present application and in response to the outstanding Official Action of March 15, 2006, Applicants filed a Response on May 15, 2006. In response to the above-noted filing of May 15, 2006, the Examiner contacted Applicants' undersigned representative and indicated that if some of the limitations of claims 14 and 30 were incorporated into claims 23 and 32, then the application would be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, by the present response and without in any way acquiescing in the propriety of any of the Examiner's previous objection and rejections, Applicants are making the above-noted Examiner-suggested changes. In this regard, Applicants note that claims in the present application prior to the present amendment are clearly patentable over the asserted combination of TAKADA in view of TADA at least for the reasons set forth in the above-noted response filed on May 15, 2006.

The present amendment is being submitted in accordance with the Examiner's request merely in order to expedite the allowance of the claims in the present application. In addition, several language refining and clarifying amendments have been made (see claim 23, line 9; claim 30, line 12 and claim 32, lines 13 and 15).

The Examiner is respectfully thanked for his initiative in contacting Applicants' representative and for his suggesting a way in which the present application can be brought into clear condition for allowance. Applicants further thank the Examiner for his courtesy and cooperation during the above-noted interview.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present

application, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Applicants note that the status of the present application is after final rejection, but submit that entry of the present amendment is appropriate and proper in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In particular, in view of the fact that the Examiner indicated during the above-noted telephone interview that the herein contained amendments would place the present application in condition for allowance, it is clear that the present amendments do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration of search. Rather, the present amendment clearly places the application in condition for allowance and is thus appropriate for entry, although the status of the present application is after final rejection.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have made of record the telephone interview conducted between Applicants' undersigned representative and the Examiner in charge of the present application. Applicants have further amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and to further clarify the claim language. Additionally, Applicants have provided a clear basis for entry of the present amendment, although the status of the present application is after final rejection.

Accordingly, Applicants have provided a clear evidentiary basis for the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect in due course.


The amendments to the claims, which have been submitted in this amendment, have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner consider that any fee is due, the Examiner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment of charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

June 15, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

Respectfully submitted,
Masao AKIMOTO et, al.


Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630